

Child Welfare Services

Emergency Response Caseload Trends and Characteristics



California Department of Social Services
Research and Development Division
Data Analysis and Publications Branch
October 2000



TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Pages
Executive Summary.....	1
Outcomes of Child Abuse Referrals.....	3
Comparison of Referrals, Investigations and Substantiations.....	4
Substantiated Allegations.....	5
Comparison of Referral Outcomes and California's Child Population by Gender.....	6
Age Comparison of Children by Referral Outcomes and California's Child Population.....	7
Ethnic Comparison of Children by Investigated Referrals, California's Child Population And Proportion of California's Children in Poverty.....	8
Ethnic Comparison of Children by Referral Outcomes.....	9
Investigated Referrals and Substantiations by County.....	10
Percent of Investigated Referrals that were Substantiated by County.....	11
Child Welfare Services Allocations and Expenditures.....	12

EMERGENCY RESPONSE CASELOAD TRENDS AND CHARACTERISTICS EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

OVERVIEW:

The Child Welfare Services (CWS) Program is California's primary statewide intervention program for abused, neglected and exploited children. The statutory authority for the CWS program is contained in Welfare and Institutions Code, Section 16500. The goal of the CWS program is to protect children at-risk of child abuse and neglect or exploitation through an integrated services delivery system, and to provide intensive services to families to ensure safety and permanence that will allow the family to stay together in their own home. In the event that a child cannot safely remain in his or her home, the child is placed in out-of-home care and services are provided to the child and family to remedy the neglect, abuse or exploitation so the child can be returned home. If it is unlikely that the child will ever be able to return home, an alternative permanent living arrangement (such as adoption or guardianship) is established to ensure that the child experiences a safe, caring, and stable family structure in which to grow up.

The CWS program offers a continuum of services that includes:

Emergency Response (ER)

ER is designed to provide initial intake services in response to reported allegations of child abuse, neglect or exploitation. County Welfare Departments (CWDs) are required to determine whether an in-person investigation of circumstances and facts is required to determine the potential for, or existence of, child abuse, neglect, or exploitation, to conduct such investigation, when required, and to identify the need and type of services to be provided.

Family Maintenance (FM)

FM is designed to provide time-limited protective services to prevent or remedy neglect, abuse or exploitation for the purpose of maintaining the child in their home. CWDs are responsible for determining the specific service needs of the child and family aimed at maintaining the child in the home.

Family Reunification (FR)

FR is designed to provide time-limited services while the child is out of home care. CWDs are responsible for providing services in order to reunite the child who had been removed due to abuse, neglect or exploitation with their parent.

Permanent Placement (PP)

PP is designed to provide an alternative permanent family structure for children who cannot safely live with their parents and are not likely to return to their own homes. The CWDs are responsible for determining the appropriate permanency plan for the child and facilitating the implementation of that plan. These plans are defined as guardianship, adoption or long-term foster care placement.

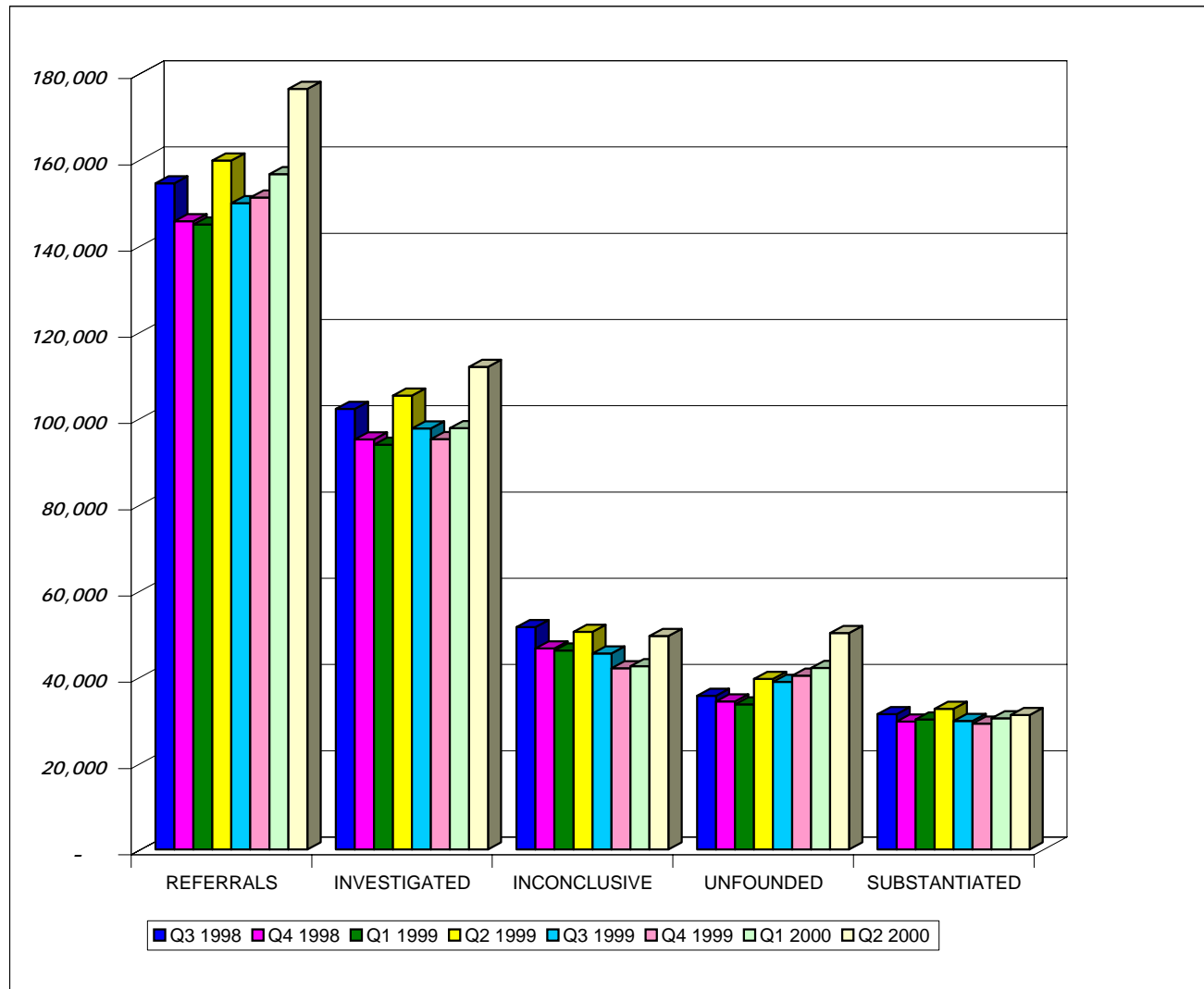
The data contained in this report focuses on the Emergency Response Program. Data pertaining to other CWS components will be highlighted in future publications.

DATA SOURCES:

The information contained in this report was derived from the following sources:

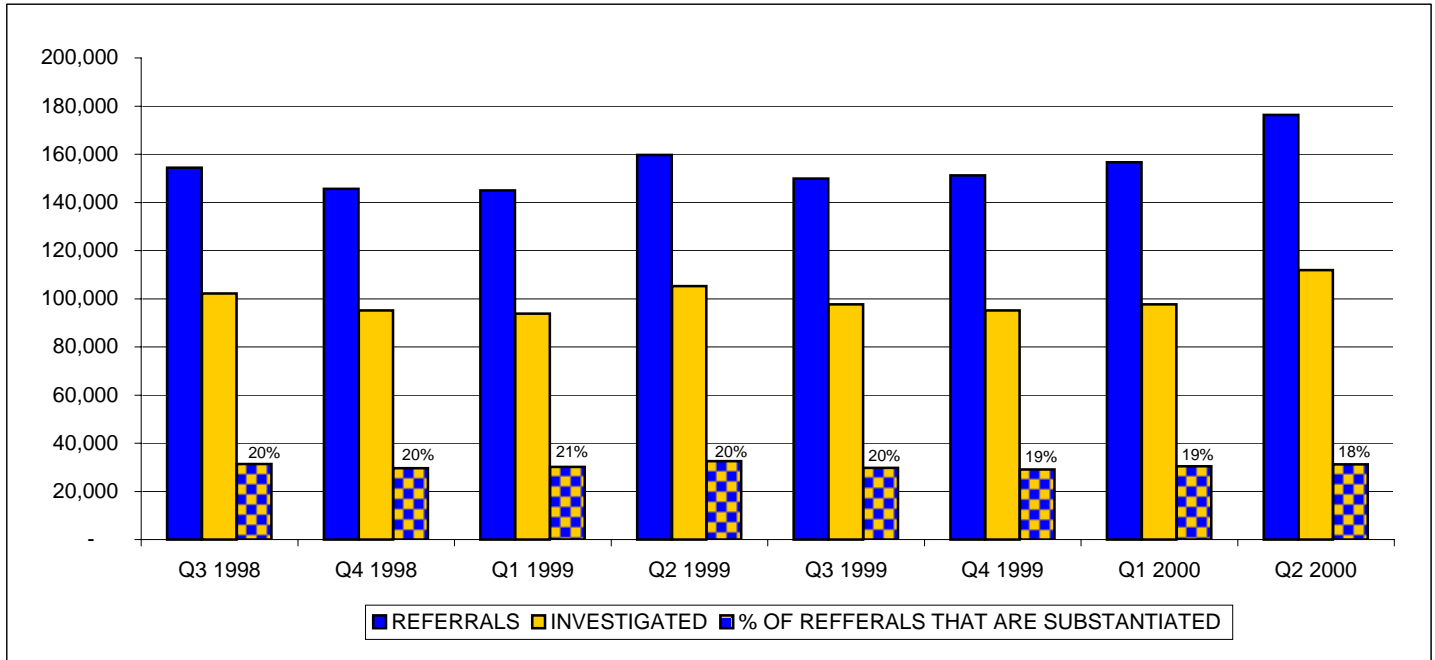
- Child Welfare Services/Case Management System (CWS/CMS)
- Department of Finance annual population demographics
- County Financial Analysis Bureau
- US Census Bureau

**OUTCOMES OF CHILD ABUSE REFERRALS
BASED UPON CALENDAR YEAR QUARTERS**



Referrals show a seasonal increase during the second quarter, April-June. The data begins with the third quarter (Q3 1998) because all counties had completed implementation of CWS/CMS at that time.

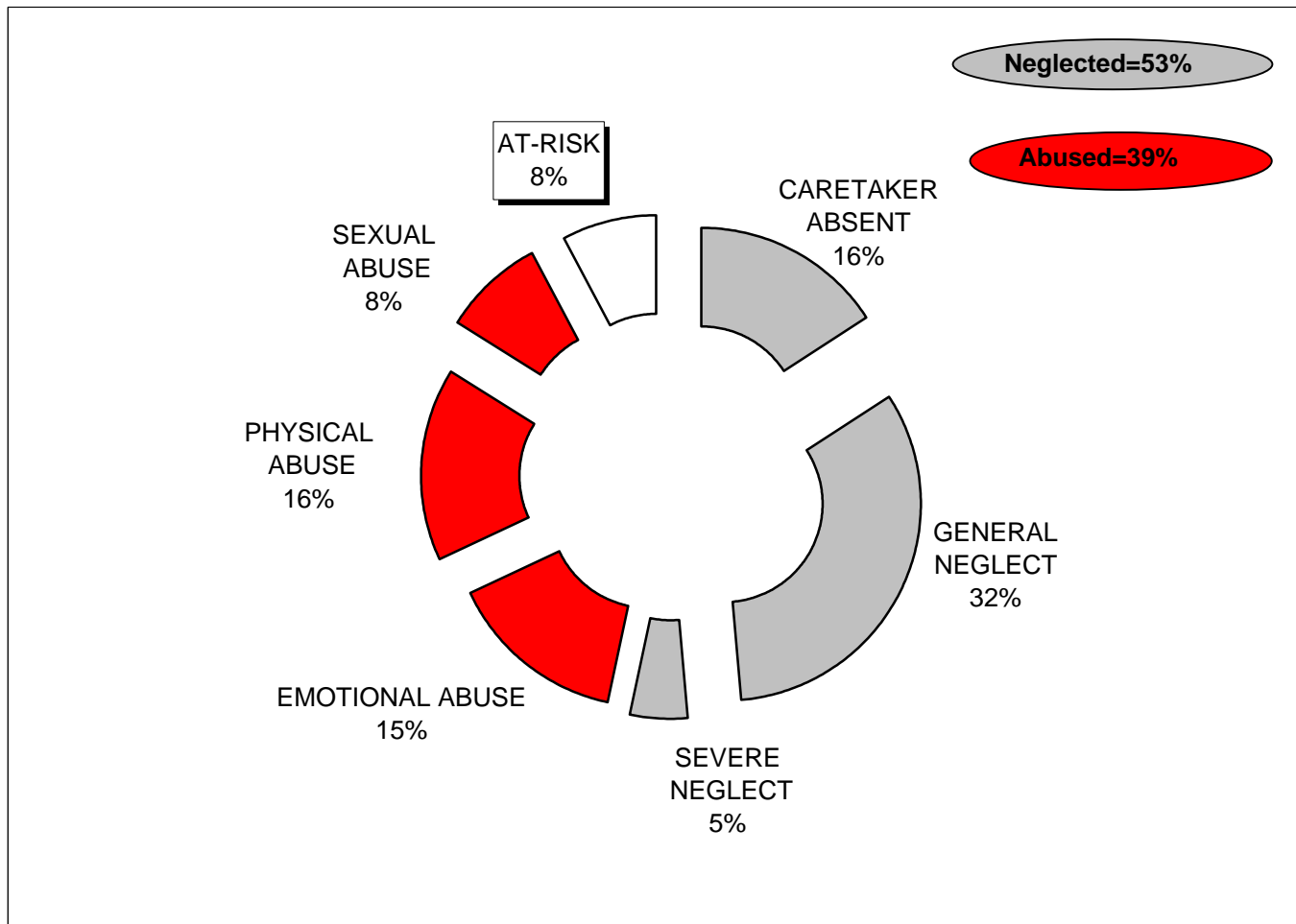
**COMPARISON OF REFERRALS, INVESTIGATIONS AND
SUBSTANTIATIONS
BASED UPON CALENDAR YEAR QUARTERS**



	Q3 1998	Q4 1998	Q1 1999	Q2 1999	Q3 1999	Q4 1999	Q1 2000	Q2 2000
REFERRALS	154,457	145,691	144,944	159,777	149,892	151,202	156,619	176,352
INVESTIGATED	102,151	95,100	93,858	105,256	97,608	95,148	97,685	111,896
SUBSTANTIATED	31,340	29,659	30,145	32,613	29,812	29,139	30,396	31,176

Although referrals have gradually increased, the number substantiated has remained constant.

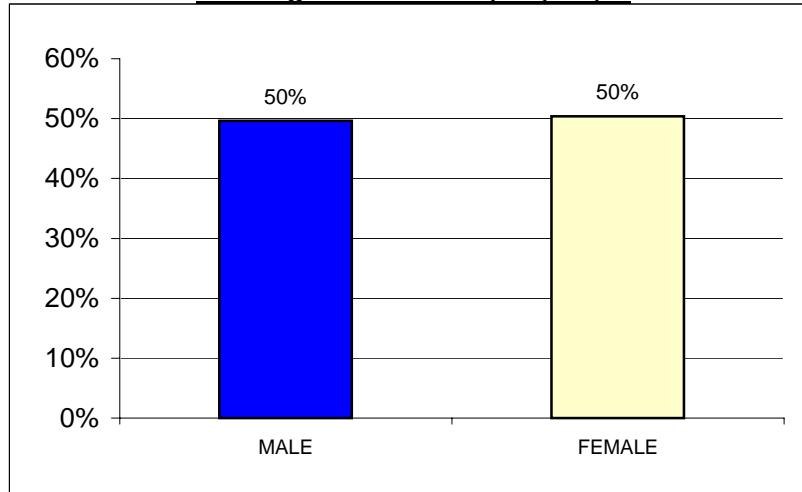
**SUBSTANTIATED ALLEGATIONS
APRIL-JUNE 2000**



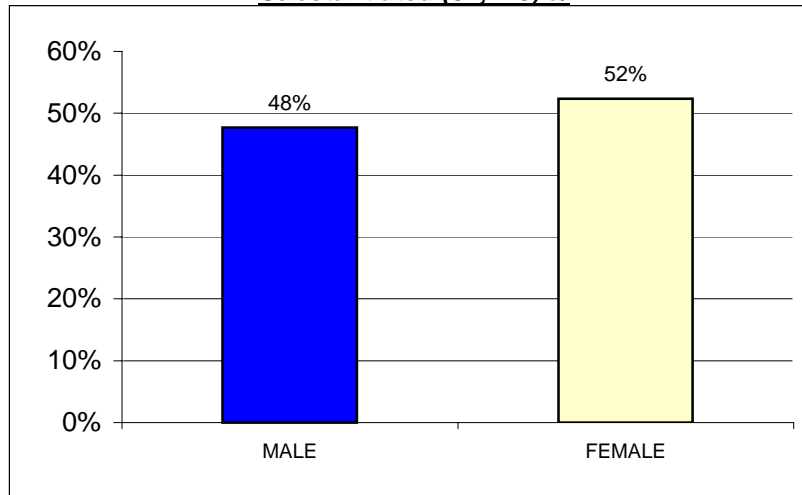
Of the 31,176 substantiated allegations, 53% were for neglect, 39% were for abuse, and the remaining 8% were for children considered to be at-risk of abuse or neglect because a sibling was abused or neglected.

**COMPARISON OF REFERRAL OUTCOMES AND
CALIFORNIA'S CHILD POPULATION BY GENDER
APRIL-JUNE 2000**

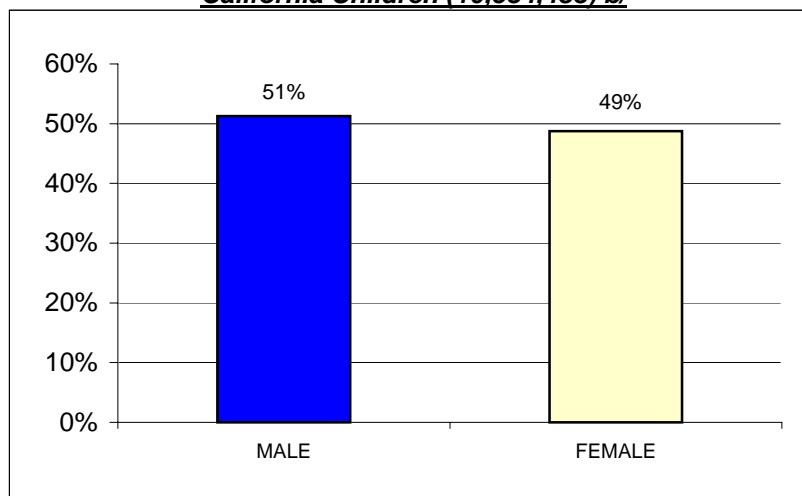
Investigated Referrals (111,896) a/



Substantiated (31,176) a/



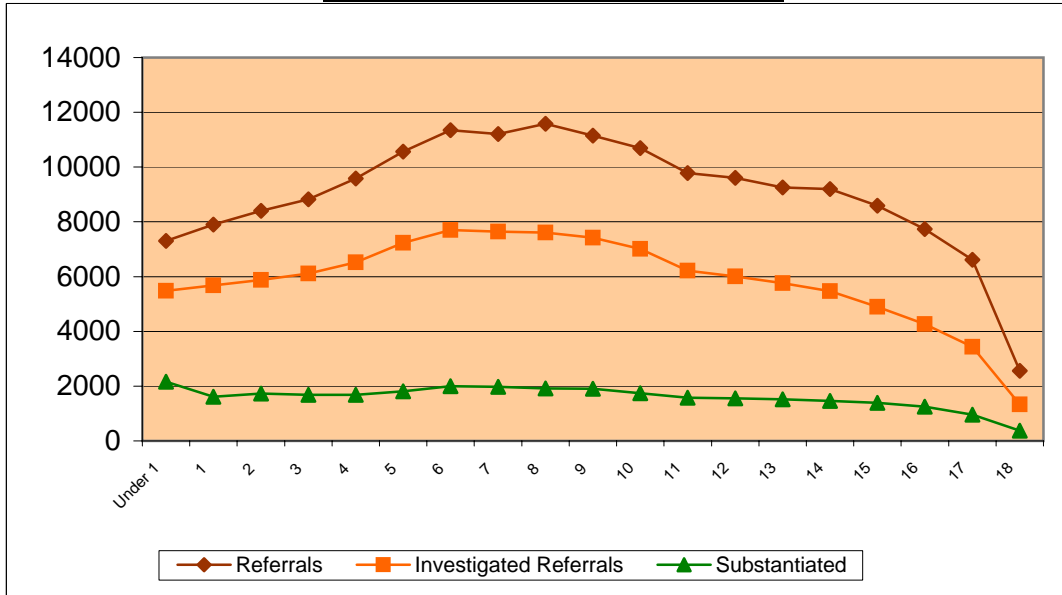
California Children (10,534,483) b/



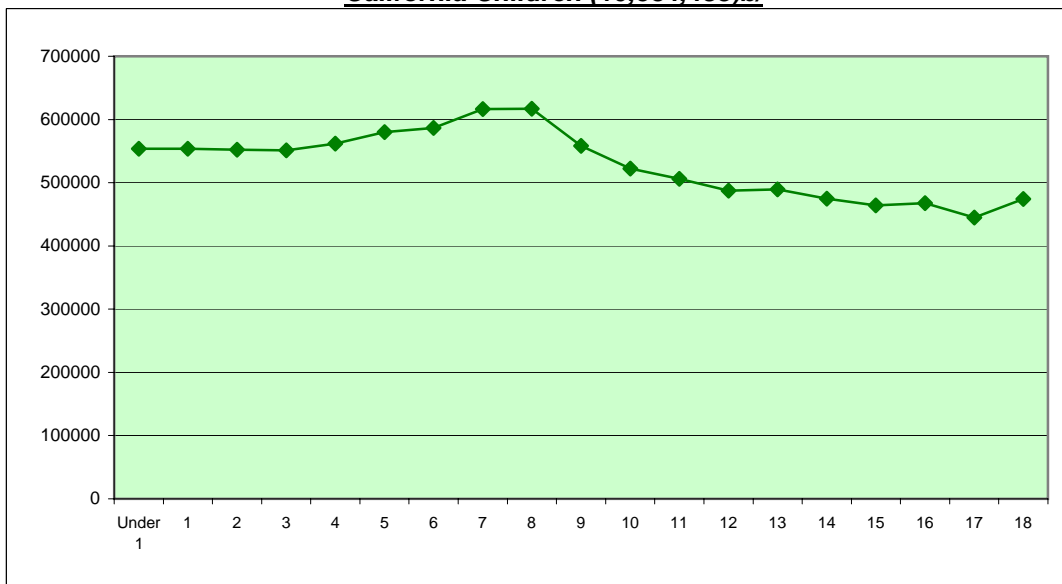
Although females are slightly less in the total population, they tend to show a slightly higher percentage of substantiated cases.

**AGE COMPARISON OF CHILDREN BY REFERRAL OUTCOMES
AND
CALIFORNIA'S CHILD POPULATION
APRIL-JUNE 2000**

Referrals/Investigated/Substantiated

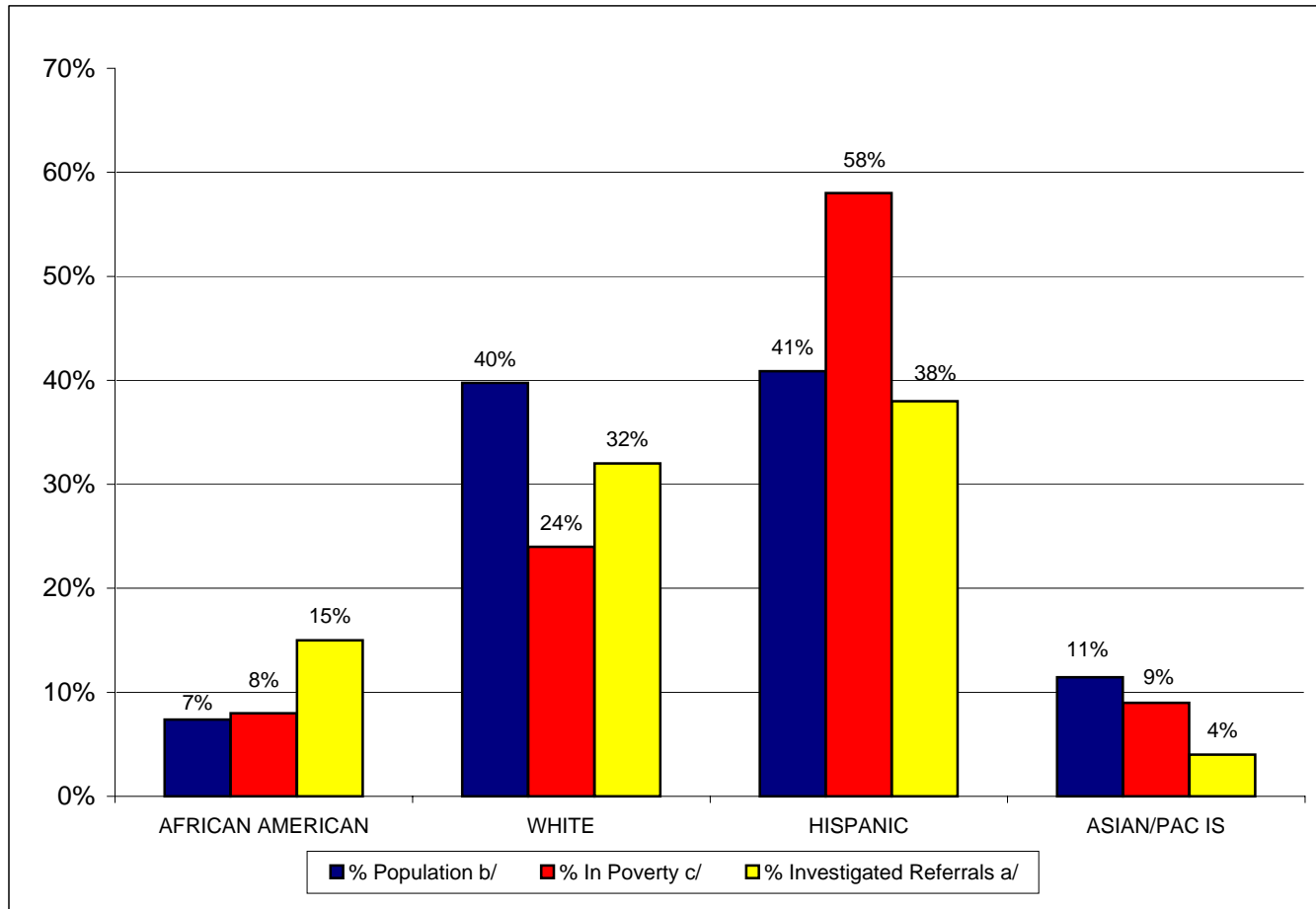


California Children (10,534,483)b/



There is an increase at 5 years of age because the child is entering school and is no longer isolated in their home environment.

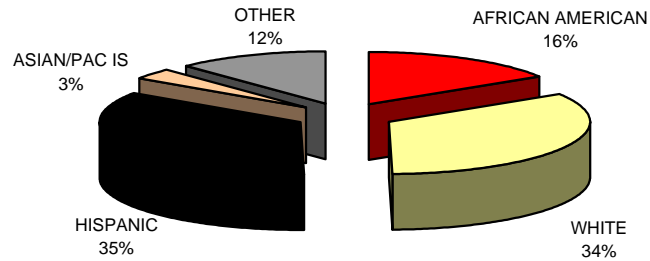
**ETHNIC COMPARISON OF CHILDREN BY INVESTIGATED REFERRALS,
CALIFORNIA'S CHILD POPULATION AND PROPORTION OF CALIFORNIA'S CHILDREN IN POVERTY**



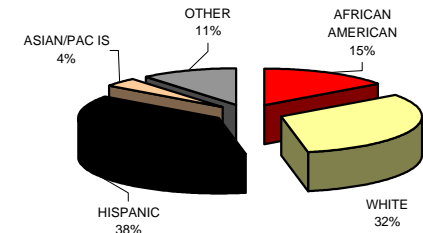
African American children are 15% of the investigated referrals and 8% of the poor.
White children are 32% of the investigated referrals and 24% of the poor.
Hispanic children are 38% of the investigated referrals and 58% of the poor.
Asian/Pacific Islander children are 4% of the investigated referrals and 9% of the poor.

ETHNIC COMPARISON OF CHILDREN BY REFERRAL OUTCOMES APRIL-JUNE 2000

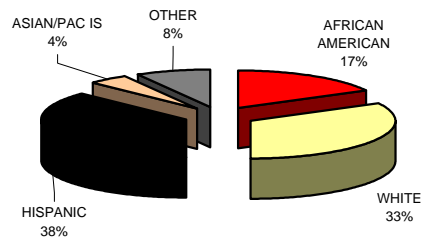
REFERRALS



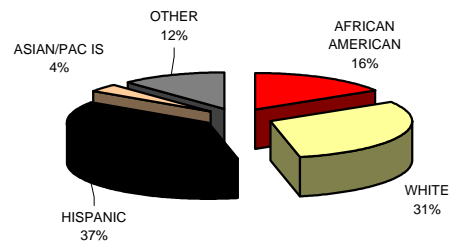
INVESTIGATED REFERRALS



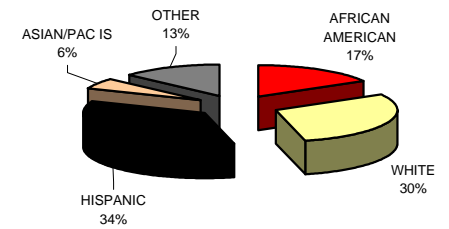
SUBSTANTIATED



UNFOUNDED



INCONCLUSIVE

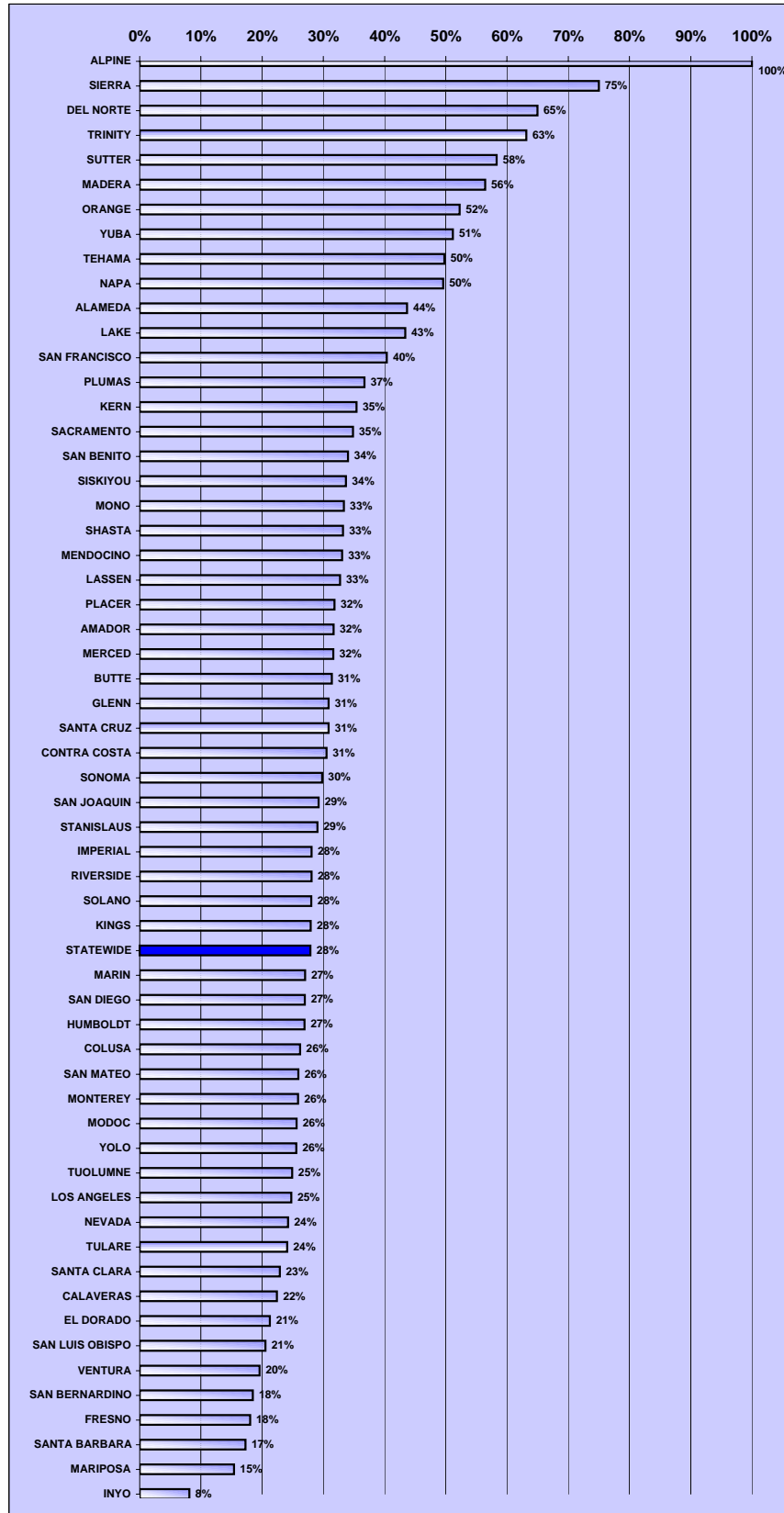


There aren't any significant differences in ethnicity when comparing the outcomes of a referral.

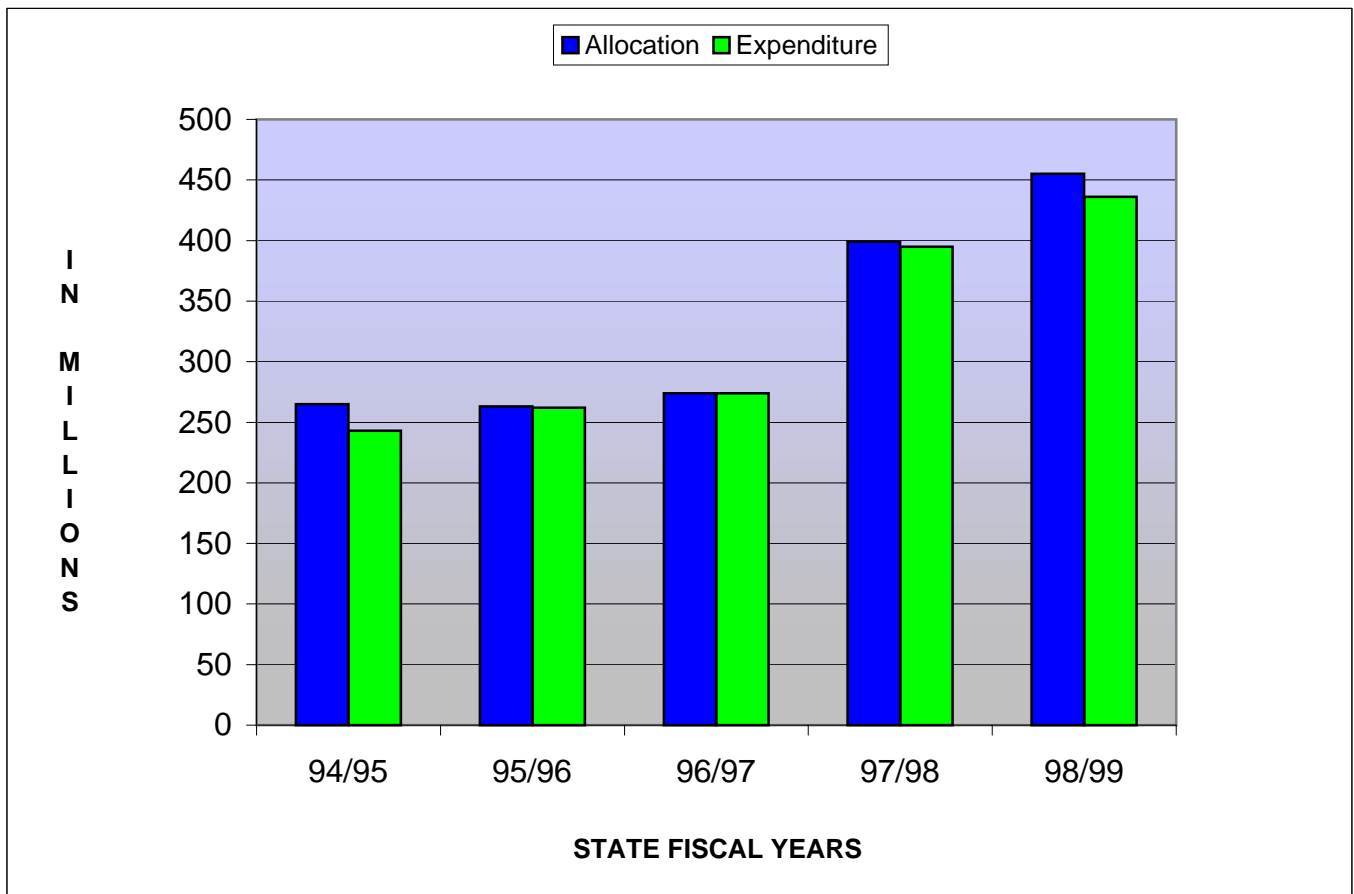
**INVESTIGATED REFERRALS AND SUBSTANTIATIONS
BY COUNTY
APRIL-JUNE 2000**

<i>County</i>	<i>Investigated Referrals</i>	<i>Number Substantiated</i>	<i>Percent Substantiated</i>
ALAMEDA	1,787	737	41%
ALPINE	1	1	100%
AMADOR	60	19	32%
BUTTE	1,117	316	28%
CALAVERAS	67	15	22%
COLUSA	126	33	26%
CONTRA COSTA	1,741	501	29%
DEL NORTE	117	76	65%
EL DORADO	287	61	21%
FRESNO	3,723	654	18%
GLENN	279	83	30%
HUMBOLDT	379	99	26%
IMPERIAL	997	280	28%
INYO	121	9	7%
KERN	3,334	1,141	34%
KINGS	597	164	27%
LAKE	176	72	41%
LASSEN	178	55	31%
LOS ANGELES	30,529	7,458	24%
MADERA	303	171	56%
MARIN	359	97	27%
MARIPOSA	117	18	15%
MENDOCINO	626	207	33%
MERCED	1,205	378	31%
MODOC	39	10	26%
MONO	24	8	33%
MONTEREY	692	179	26%
NAPA	113	56	50%
NEVADA	165	40	24%
ORANGE	6,117	3,196	52%
PLACER	911	290	32%
PLUMAS	79	29	37%
RIVERSIDE	7,548	2,119	28%
SACRAMENTO	6,266	2,182	35%
SAN BENITO	100	34	34%
SAN BERNARDINO	8,846	1,633	18%
SAN DIEGO	12,558	3,384	27%
SAN FRANCISCO	808	326	40%
SAN JOAQUIN	2,109	616	29%
SAN LUIS OBISPO	969	199	21%
SAN MATEO	968	251	26%
SANTA BARBARA	1,105	191	17%
SANTA CLARA	3,188	730	23%
SANTA CRUZ	645	199	31%
SHASTA	708	235	33%
SIERRA	16	12	75%
SISKIYOU	291	98	34%
SOLANO	578	162	28%
SONOMA	846	252	30%
STANISLAUS	1,585	460	29%
SUTTER	211	123	58%
TEHAMA	197	98	50%
TRINITY	76	48	63%
TULARE	2,698	650	24%
TUOLUMNE	221	55	25%
VENTURA	2,085	408	20%
YOLO	798	204	26%
YUBA	88	45	51%
INVALID/UNKNOWN	22	9	41%
<u>TOTALS</u>	<u>111,896</u>	<u>31,176</u>	<u>28%</u>

**PERCENT OF INVESTIGATED REFERRALS THAT WERE SUBSTANTIATED
BY COUNTY
APRIL-JUNE 2000**



**CHILD WELFARE SERVICES
ALLOCATIONS AND EXPENDITURES
DURING SFY 94/95 - 98/99**



The increase in the 97/98 allocation was due primarily to a shift of the Emergency Assistance Program funds to the Child Welfare Services allocation. There was also caseload growth and social worker salary increases during 97/98.